Locating Information on the GLOBE Student Data Server

To Find Any GLOBE Site

1. Click on the ”Student Data Server” on the GLOBE Home Page
2. Use the menus to locate the site(s).

If there are only a few sites at your latitude, another approach to finding sites is to have students identify major cities around the world at their latitude. Daily high and low temperatures for such cities are printed in the weather section of most newspapers. However, many major cities are coastal, so make sure students obtain some kind of diversity.

Finding a Nearby GLOBE School

1. Click on the “people” icon (fifth button) on the button bar at the bottom of the GLOBE home page.
2. Scroll to the bottom of the “GLOBE School Interaction” page and click on the “List” button.
3. The next menus will enable you to select the appropriate country and state.
4. When you are at the “Individual School” level, scroll through the list to find a nearby school that has a data icon (a picture of a graph in the third column).
5. Click on the data icon and see how many data points exist for the parameter in which you are interested. If it does not have enough data points or if the data points are for the wrong time period, continue to scroll through the list until you find a data set that meets your needs. If no school in your state meets your needs, consider using data sets from schools at similar latitudes in similar geographical settings. While this will introduce an uncontrolled variable into your data, it will also stimulate an interesting discussion about weather and climate around the world. In addition, it will underscore the importance of submitting to GLOBE a data set to represent your region.

To Find the GLOBE Sites That Have Reported on a Specific Day

1. Click on the Student Data Archive on the GLOBE Home Page.
2. Use the “Get data for most recent day or for some other time period” menu to locate the site.

Another Way To Find the GLOBE Sites that Have Reported on a Specific Day

1. Open the GLOBE Visualizations location on the GLOBE Student Server.
2. Click on “What's New.”
3. Click on “try out new system.”
4. Select “GLOBE Maps.”
5. Scroll down and under “Other Options,” click on “Show Table.”
6. The list is at the bottom of the page. Click on the column headings to sort the table by that category.

Finding GLOBE Sites With Many Reported Measurements

1. Select “GLOBE Stars” on the Student Data Server home page.
2. Select “Schools providing many observations.”
3. Click on the arrow to find the name of the schools in each category.
4. Click on one of the icons to access a school's data or to find out more about the school.
5. So a data-rich site can be readily identified when data from a specific location is required, print out the schools in each category and keep them on file.

Obtaining Average Monthly Data

1. From the GLOBE Home Page, click on the “Student Data Archive.”
2. Enter the first few letters of the school you want.
3. Click: “Search.”
4. After the search is completed, click on the data icon of the desired school.
5. After clicking the checkboxes of the “Monthly Summary” and desired measurements, click “Retrieve.”
6. Once the monthly summary data are obtained, they can graphed by hand or be loaded into a spreadsheet program.

Obtaining Historical Data through GLOBE

In this activity, students will see importance of having reliable data over long periods of time and will appreciate the insights that can be gleaned from using the historical climatic data on the GLOBE Student Server. To access these data:

1. Click on the “GLOBE Resource Room” selection on the GLOBE Home Page.
2. Click on “Weather Information.”
3. Choose a site with historic weather data such as Intellicast or the Purdue Weather Processor. Scroll down to the bottom of the Weather Information page to see capsule descriptions of each weather site.

Another historic temperature and precipitation data set provided through GLOBE is from the National Climatic Data Center. It includes historic temperature data from over 6,000 stations around the world dating back hundreds of years, in some cases. The data are available in several presentations: as an average year, as a yearly time series, and as monthly averages. One can also obtain the average and standard deviation of temperatures shown as a function of latitude. These data provide an original data source for discussions of temperatures and seasonal variations around the world.